

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5345

UNCLAS ISTANBUL 1998

FOR SCS DUTY OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, TU, GR

SUBJ: W/W--M/S STELLA POLARIS STRANDEES

REF: ATHENS 4675

AMCIT JOHN SWARTZ, LAW ASSOCIATE OF SENATOR HUGH SCOTT, AND TWELVE OTHER AMCITS STRANDED ISTANBUL AS RESULT DEPARTURE CRUISE SHIP STELLA POLARIS FROM ISTANBUL FOR ATHENS AT 1300 ON 20 JULY, WITHOUT NOTICE TO PASSENGERS ASHORE, INSTEAD OF SCHEDULED DEPARTURE ON 21 JULY. ALL SWARTZ MONEY, DOCUMENTS, BAGGAGE AND SPECIAL MEDICATION FOR SELF AND WIFE ABOARD, SWARTZ WITHOUT FUNDS BUT LODGED IN ISTANBUL HILTON ON CREDIT. OTHER PASSENGERS SIMILAR PREDICAMENT. FOR ATHENS: SWARTZ PREFERS REJOIN CRUISE SHIP AT ATHENS, BUT ISTANBUL AIRPORT CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND DEPARTURE ISTANBUL UNPREDICTABLE. IF SHIP CONTINUES, ATTEMPT RETRIEVE STRANDEES' EFFECTS IF FEASIBLE. WE PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING ASCERTAIN WHETHER SHIP INFACIT SAILED AND WILL BE ALLOWED CLEAR DARDANELLES, IN LIGHT BAN ON ALL SHIP MOVEMENTS. FOR DEPARTMENT: SUGGEST CONTACT SENATOR SCOTT RE FUNDS DEPOSIT THROUGH DEPT. CHANNELS. MACE

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